



# News Release

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## **Naturopathic physician from western Washington has license suspended**

*Charged with using naturopathic license to distribute marijuana products*

**OLYMPIA** — A naturopathic physician with practices in Whatcom and King counties was charged with using his license to sell marijuana. The Board of Naturopathy and the Washington State Department of Health immediately suspended the license of Yuel L. Boyce (NATU.NT.60114352).

Boyce is charged with using his naturopathic license to profit from patients seeking authorization for medical marijuana without providing naturopathic care or treatment. He's also charged with providing marijuana products to patients at the same location he issued authorizations for medical marijuana, which violates medical marijuana laws.

During a Bellingham Police Department investigation last January, Boyce allegedly examined three patients seeking authorizations for medical marijuana. It's alleged that Boyce didn't require medical records or adequately examine, diagnose, and determine whether these patients qualified for medical marijuana. Boyce allegedly signed authorizations for each patient before a superficial review of their medical complaints. State law ([RCW 69.51A.030](#)) specifies requirements for medical marijuana authorization by a health care professional.

After receiving cash payment, Boyce allegedly gave the patients peanut butter cups infused with marijuana. An investigator with the Department of Health interviewed Boyce in mid-September at his Shoreline office. Boyce allegedly admitted that he provided marijuana products to patients.

Boyce has 20 days to request a hearing with the board, and may not practice until charges are resolved. The charges can be seen online by clicking, "[Look up a health care provider](#)" on the [Department of Health website](#); copies can be requested by calling 360-236-4700. That's also the number to call to file complaints against health care providers in Washington.

The Board of Naturopathy regulates naturopathic physicians in Washington. The board establishes, monitors, and enforces licensing qualifications, practice standards, continuing competency mechanisms, and discipline. Rules, policies, and procedures promote the delivery of quality health care to state residents.

The [Department of Health website](http://doh.wa.gov) (doh.wa.gov) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*.

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